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# ANNUAL REPORT

*of the*

**Medical Officer of Health**

*for 1964*

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**RIVER BLYTH PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY**





# RIVER BLYTH PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

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## ANNUAL REPORT

of the

### Port Medical Officer of Health

for YEAR 1964

WATERLOO HOUSE,  
WATERLOO ROAD,  
BLYTH.

January, 1965.

To the Chairman and Members of the River Blyth Port Health Authority.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Once again it is my privilege to place before you the Annual Report on the work of the Port Health Administration for the Port of Blyth, for the year 1964.

As in preceding years this report is presented in accordance with the instructions issued by the Minister of Health—Form Port 20, and Circular 33/52. Detailed information will be found in the Sections I to XVI.

The total number of vessels which arrived during the year was 2,835 including Fishing Vessels. This is a considerable decrease on the previous year. Foreign Vessels (Foreign and Coastwise) numbered 443 including Fishing Vessels. The number of arrivals direct from Foreign Ports was also less than the previous year.

The amount of Coal and Coke shipped from the Port during the year was 5,138,704 tons, this also includes Bunker Coal.

Imports discharged at the Port were: Timber: 22,841 loads, Cement 41,738 tons, Roofing Tiles 1,187 tons, and Sundries 4,513 tons.

#### **PUBLIC HEALTH (SHIPS) REGULATIONS, 1952**

The above Regulations became operative from the 1st October, 1952, and deal with the Infectious Diseases, now to be known as Quarantinable Diseases, sanitary control of ships and persons, Deratting Certificates, etc. Certificates issued will be found in the appropriate Tables.

#### **INSPECTION OF VESSELS**

The work of dealing with nuisances and defects (structural and otherwise) will be found in the appropriate tables included in the report.

I again record with pleasure the kind assistance received from time to time from the Blyth Harbour Commission, River Pilots, H.M. Customs Officers, Immigration Officer, also the Ministry of Transport Surveyors for their help and co-operation with the staff of the Port Health Authority.

R. J. P. R. CAMPBELL, M.B., Ch.B.,  
Medical Officer of Health.

## **RIVER BLYTH PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY**

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### **MEMBERS OF AUTHORITY AT 31st DECEMBER, 1964**

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Chairman: ALDERMAN F. RAFFERTY

Vice-Chairman: COUNCILLOR A. H. PAYNE

ALDERMAN A. RUTHERFORD, J.P.

ALDERMAN MRS. L. M. SUMMERS

ALDERMAN A. WALTON, J.P.

COUNCILLOR E. BREADIN

COUNCILLOR G. COLPITTS

COUNCILLOR J. HAIG

COUNCILLOR J. HUDSPITH

COUNCILLOR MRS. A. M. MOCKETT

COUNCILLOR MRS. M. PURVES

COUNCILLOR MRS. M. E. THOMPSON

## SECTION I—STAFF

**Table A**

Name of Officer	Nature of Appointment	Date of Appointment	Qualifications	Any other Appointments held
MISS L. OWEN ...	Clerk to the Authority	11th Sept., 1960	A.C.I.S.	Town Clerk's Staff, Borough of Blyth
DR. R. J. P. R. CAMPBELL	Medical Officer of Health	1st October, 1949	M.B., Ch.B.	General Practice
DR. R. CRAIG ...	Deputy Medical Officer of Health	1st April, 1957	M.B., Ch.B.	General Practice
MR. NORMAN F. GODFREY ...	Public Health Inspector	1st February, 1957	Public Health Inspectors' Certificate R.S.I. Meat and Food Cert. R.S.I.	None
MR. ROBERT H. CRAMP	Rodent Officer	11th January, 1952		None
MISS K. IRELAND ...	Office Clerk	7th December, 1959		None

Dr. R. J. P. R. Campbell's address:—Waterloo House, Waterloo Road, Blyth, Northumberland.

Telephone No. BLYTH 3226

## SECTION II

**Amount of Shipping entering the District during the year**

**Table B**

Ships from	Number	Tonnage	Number Inspected		Number of Ships reported as having or having had during the voyage Infectious Diseases on board
			By the M.O.H.	By the Public Health Inspector	
Foreign Ports ...	140	76,855	24	140	—
Coastwise Ports ...	2,518	2,136,682	40	2,518	—
TOTALS ...	2,658	2,213,537	64	2,658	—



FISHING VESSELS—				No.	Tonnage
Foreign	...	...	...	173	14,928
Coastwise	...	...	...	4	500

**Crews**

Foreign	Coastwise	Fishing	Total
1,563	38,058	2,285	41,906

**SECTION III**

**Character of Shipping and Trade during the year 1964**

**Table C**

				British	Alien	Common-wealth	
Passenger Traffic	...	{	Number of Passengers INWARDS	...	32	27	3
			Number of Passengers OUTWARDS	...	58	72	10
			Passengers on Temporary Shore Leave	...	Nil	Nil	Nil

There is no regular passenger traffic at this Port (See table for Aliens).

Cargo Traffic	...	{ Principal Imports	...	...	Mining Timber	...	...	13,434 tons
					Other Timber	...	...	9,407 „
					Cement	...	...	41,738 „
					Roofing Tiles	...	...	1,187 „
					Sundry	...	...	4,513 „
		{ Principal Exports	...	...	Coal & Coke (Cargo)	...	5,100,025	„
					Coal (Bunkers)	...	38,679	„
					Fuel Oil (Bunkers)	...	5,775	„
					Sundry	...	2,071	„

Fish landed was valued at £16,005.

Principal Ports from which Ships arrive:—

**FOREIGN PORTS—**

BELGIUM	...	Antwerp, Brussels, Ghent, Ostend.
DENMARK	...	Aarhus, Aalvik, Aalborg, Copenhagen, Esbjerg, Nykobing, Odense, Svendborg, Thisted, Velsen.
FAEROES	...	Klaksvik, Thorshavn.
FINLAND	...	Abo, Kaska, Kemi, Mantyluoto, Rauma, Yxpila, Ventspils.
FRANCE	...	Bayonne, Caen, Calais, Dunkirk, Dieppe, Honfleur.
GERMANY	...	Bremen, Cuxhaven, Emden, Flensburg, Gluckstadt, Hamburg, Haren-Ems, Itzehoe, Leer, Rendsburg, Schulau, Stade.
GREECE	...	Piraeus.
HOLLAND	...	Amsterdam, Delfzijl, Dordrecht, Groningen, Harlingen, Kampen, Katwijk, Leeuwarden, Schveningen, Terneuzen, Vlaardingen, Ymuiden, Zaandam.
NORWAY	...	Aalsund, Bergen, Haugesund, Odda, Stavanger.
POLAND	...	Gdynia, Stettin, Swinouisce, Wladyslawawa.
PORTUGAL	...	Leixoes, Lisbon, Setubal.
SPAIN...	...	Bilbao.
SWEDEN	...	Gavle, Goteborg, Christenstad, Halmstad, Kalundborg, Karlshamn, Lidkoping, Stockholm.
U.S.A.	...	Pascagoula.
U.S.S.R.	...	Archangel.

## **SECTION IV**

### **Inland Barge Traffic**

There is no barge traffic at the Port.

## **SECTION V**

### **Water Supply**

Samples have been taken regularly from points on the West Staithes, North and South Sides, South Harbour and B.H.C. Waterboat. Of the 85 samples taken from the Port, 13 after bacteriological examination were found to be unsatisfactory. Of the 14 samples taken from vessels in the Port, 3 were found to be unsatisfactory.

In all cases where Unsatisfactory Reports have been received, remedial measures have been taken and check samples taken later have shown the supply to be satisfactory. In instances where unsatisfactory reports have come from vessels, the fresh water tanks have been cleaned and in some instances the fresh water systems thoroughly overhauled, with satisfactory results in all cases.

## **SECTION VI**

### **Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1952**

No change.

## **SECTION VII**

### **Smallpox**

1.—The Northern Regional Hospitals Board have made arrangements for the admission of Smallpox cases to the Langley Park Isolation Hospital, Co. Durham (Telephone No.: Chester-le-Street 3207). The Doctor in Charge of this hospital will be Dr. Gavin Miller, of Green Ridge, Farnley Mount, Durham. His Telephone No. is Durham 2395.

2.—The Northumberland County Council are responsible for the ambulance service. Dr. A. Donaldson, the Medical Officer for the Blyth and Bedlington Local Authorities, is responsible for the vaccinal state of the ambulance crews.

3.—NAME OF SMALLPOX CONSULTANT AVAILABLE:—

DR. WILSON MINNS,  
South Rigg, Humshaugh,  
Hexham.

Home Telephone No.:  
Humshaugh 317.

4.—FACILITIES FOR LABORATORY DIAGNOSIS OF SMALLPOX. Laboratory facilities are provided at the General Hospital, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, 4.

## **SECTION VIII**

### **Venereal Disease**

No change.



## SECTION IX

Cases of notifiable and other Infectious Diseases on ships.

Table D

Category	Disease	Number of Cases during the year		Number of ships concerned
		Passengers	Crew	
Cases landed from ships from Foreign Ports	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports, but have been disposed of before arrival ... ..	Nil	Nil	1	1
Cases landed from other ships ... ..	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

A Dutch vessel the *Frema* arrived in this Port on the 18th September, from Ostend. A Portuguese member of the crew had been found to be suffering from Tuberculosis. Facilities were granted to the remainder of the Crew to visit the Chest Clinic for examination and X-Rays. There was no further evidence of Tuberculosis to be found.

## SECTION X

### Observation on the occurrence of Malaria in ships

No cases of Malaria have been reported during the year.

## SECTION XI

### Measures taken against Ships infected with or suspected of Plague

Inquiries as to the prevalence of rats are made on all ships in Port (whether in possession of Deratting Certificates or Deratting Exemption Certificates or not) and a systematic inspection is carried out on all ships arriving directly or otherwise from foreign ports.

A systematic search for evidence of infestation is carried out on all vessels.

## SECTION XII

### Measures against Rodents in Ships from Foreign Ports

1.—On arrival at the Port vessels are examined and if there is any evidence of rats notice is at once served on the Master. The Port Health Authority have their own official Rodent Operator. Particular attention is given to vessels arriving directly or indirectly from infected areas.

2.—Rats when caught are examined and facilities are provided by the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle upon Tyne for detailed bacteriological examination of any specimens when necessary.



3.—For some years now there has been no instance of a major infestation of rats on any vessel to the extent of requiring wholesale fumigation. If any such instance occurred, the shipping agents would arrange for the fumigation to be carried out by one of the approved firms mentioned below. The whole process would be supervised by Officers of the Authority.

In the case of fumigation by Hydrogen Cyanide or Methyl Bromide, strict precautions have to be observed to safeguard all the persons involved and the whole process carried out in accordance with the Regulations.

Contractors approved for the carrying out of the above services in this Port are:—

Messrs. CONTRA PEST SERVICES LTD.,

Rekendyke Lane,

South Shields.

Tel. No.: South Shields 63388.

Messrs. RENTOKIL LABORATORIES LTD.,

556 Regent Street,

South Shields.

Tel. No.: South Shields 4921.

4.—In the Construction of modern vessels considerable progress has been made in the provision of rat-proof compartments. Bulkheads and partitions are usually steel, and with a minimum of timber, it is difficult for rodents to find harbourage. Modern Naval Architecture is coping with the problem satisfactorily.

**Table E**

**Rodents destroyed during the year in Ships from Foreign Ports**

Category					Number
Black Rats	...	...	...	...	—
Brown Rats	...	...	...	...	—
Species not known	...	...	...	...	—
Sent for examination	...	...	...	...	—
Infected with Plague	...	...	...	...	—

The total number of brown rats recovered from the Quayside after poison baits have been put down was 361.

All rats recovered are examined and where any abnormalities are noted are sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle upon Tyne for further detailed examination.

Table F

**Deratting Certificates and Deratting Exemption Certificates issued during the year 1964**  
**for Ships from Foreign Ports**

No. of Deratting Certificates issued					Number of Deratting Exemption Certificates issued	Total Certificates issued
After Fumigation with		After Trapping	After Poisoning	Total		
HCN	Other Fumigant (state method)					
—	—	—	—	—	16	16

**Deratting Certificates and Deratting Exemption Certificates**  
**issued during the year 1964**

Net Tonnage	No. of Ships	No. of Deratting Certificates issued				No. of Deratting Exemption Certificates issued	Total Certificates issued
		After Fumigation with			After Trapping, Poisoning, &c.		
		HCN	Sulphur	HCN and Sulphur			
Ships up to 300 tons ...	33	—	—	—	—	33	33
Ships from 301 tons to 1,000 tons ...	40	—	—	—	—	40	40
Ships from 1,001 tons to 3,000 tons ...	23	—	—	—	—	23	23
Ships from 3,001 tons to 10,000 tons ...	3	—	—	—	—	3	3
Ships over 10,000 tons	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	99	—	—	—	—	99	99



**SECTION XIII**  
**Inspection of Ships for Nuisances**  
**Table G**  
**Inspection and Notices**

Nature and Number of Inspections	Notices Served		Result of Serving Notices
	Statutory Notices	Other Notices	
Routine Inspections ... S/S 900	Nil	196	Defects remedied
Do. ... M/V 1,758	Do.	169	Do.
Do. ... F/V 177	Do.	—	—
TOTAL ... 2,835	Do.	365	Do.

**SECTION XIV**  
**Public Health (Shell-fish Regulations) 1934 and 1948**

No change.

**SECTION XV**  
**Medical Inspection of Aliens**

This is not an approved Port for the landing or inspection of Aliens.  
The number of Aliens who arrived at the Port was 99 (See Table C, Section III).

**SECTION XVI**  
**Miscellaneous**

**Mortuary**—No change.

**Food Inspection**—No change.

**NATIONALITIES OF SHIPS**

American ...	...	...	...	2
British ...	...	...	...	2,385
Danish ...	...	...	...	9
Dutch ...	...	...	...	84
Faeroes ...	...	...	...	9
German ...	...	...	...	152
Greek ...	...	...	...	2
Irish ...	...	...	...	1
Liberian ...	...	...	...	3
Norwegian ...	...	...	...	6
Panamanian ...	...	...	...	2
Russian ...	...	...	...	1
Spanish ...	...	...	...	1
Swedish ...	...	...	...	1
TOTAL ...	...	...	...	2,658

## FISHING VESSELS

Dutch	...	...	...	...	...	115
Polish	...	...	...	...	...	57
British	...	...	...	...	...	4
Faeroes	...	...	...	...	...	1
TOTAL					...	177
GRAND TOTAL FOR THE YEAR					...	2,835

## VESSELS BOARDED

The following tables gives a list of vessels boarded during the year by the Medical Officer of Health or Public Health Inspector on account of disease on board during the voyage or whilst in Port.

All cases set out below received attention and treatment.

Date	Name of Vessel and Nationality	Where from	Rating	Sickness
2.1.64	M.V. Anja (Dutch)	Scarborough	Seaman	Abscess on jaw
19.1.64	M.V. Cantick Head (British)	Southampton	Seaman	Influenza
25.1.64	S.S. Vir (Liberian)	Rotterdam	2nd Eng.	Gastric infection
27.1.64	S.S. Pinewood (British)	London	Radio Op.	Accident to foot
3.2.64	M.V. Marwick Head (British)	London	2nd Officer	Gastric influenza
14.2.64	S.S. Cormount (British)	London	Seaman	Tonsillitis
17.3.64	M.V. Durhambrook (British)	Belfast	Mate	Accident to shoulder
25.4.64	S.S. Ballymena (British)	Belfast	Seaman	Accident
1.5.64	S.S. Corsound (British)	London	Mate	Mumps
10.6.64	S.S. Cormoat (British)	London	Mate	Pneumonia
30.6.64	M.V. Lady Sandra (British)	Tyne	Master	Influenza
12.8.64	M.V. Bobrix (British)	Leith	Seaman	Accident
12.8.64	M.V. Daniel M. (British)	London	Cook	Boils
2.9.64	S.S. Hudson Cape (British)	London	Master	Back injury
2.9.64	S.S. Hudson Cape (British)	London	Seaman	Accident
18.9.64	M.V. Frema (Dutch)	Ostend	Seaman	Tuberculosis
20.10.64	M.V. Olna Firth (British)	Newcastle	Cook	Abscess on ear
21.10.64	S.S. Cormount (British)	Rochester	Seaman	Accident to foot
7.11.64	M.V. Jimmy (Norwegian)	Felixstowe	Seaman	Stomach infection
12.11.64	M.V. Holmur (Faeroes)	Faeroes	Seaman	Dental abscess
21.11.64	M.V. Osborne Queen	Jersey	2nd Officer	Gastric influenza
28.11.64	M.V. Corburn (British)	Plymouth	Radio Op.	Influenza
10.12.64	M.V. Windsor Queen (British)	Rotterdam	Seaman	Accident to shoulder



## Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

### Prevention of Damage by Pests (Application to Shipping) Order, 1951

Eleven Rodent Control Certificates were issued during the year.

The charges for the issue of Deratting and Deratting Exemption Certificates were increased from 1st September, 1961, so that some coasting vessels have requested to be issued with Rodent Control Certificates. This latter type of Certificate is not valid outside British waters.

### VESSELS FOUND HAVING STRUCTURAL OR SANITARY DEFECTS

	Structural Defects		Sanitary Defects		TOTAL
	Foreign	Coastwise	Foreign	Coastwise	
British Steam ... ..	4	39	10	137	190
British Motor ... ..	7	16	22	77	122
British Sail ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Foreign Steam ... ..	—	—	2	4	6
Foreign Motor ... ..	9	—	27	11	47
Foreign Sail ... ..	—	—	—	Nil	—
TOTALS ... ..	20	55	61	229	365

It was found necessary to carry out disinfestations of crew's quarters on five vessels during the year. This was carried out by the Officers of the Authority.

## DEFECTS

									Work in hand	Work completed	Total
Fresh water tanks repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	3	3
Fresh water tanks cleaned and cement washed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	27	27
Fresh water systems repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	14	14
New fresh water systems provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
Sanitary tanks repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	7	7
Sanitary systems repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	4	4
Sanitary pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	8	8
Bath repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
W.C.'s discharging on to quay	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	10	10
W.C.'s repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	17	17
Wash basins repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	15	15
Wash up sinks repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	4	4
Additional sanitary accommodation provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
Showers repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	17	17
Bedding renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	12	12
Central heating systems repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	18	18
Crew's accommodation cleaned and painted out	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	15	15
Officer's accommodation cleaned and painted out	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	12	12
Crew's accommodation quarters repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	3	3
Leaking accommodation repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	3	3
Galleys cleaned and painted out	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	19	19
Galley stoves repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	8	8
Galley equipment repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	15	15
Vegetable locker provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
Refrigerators cleaned out	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	11	11
Refrigerators repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	14	14
Food stores cleaned out	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	4	4
Crew's mess tables renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	2	2
Scupper pipes cleared	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	9	9
Scupper pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	11	11
Port lights repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	50	50
Disinfestation for vermin...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	5	5
Refuse deposited on to quay	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	8	8
Smoke emissions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	10	10
Ventilating systems repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	5	5
Ventilating systems improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
TOTALS ...									—	365	365



## VESSELS ARRIVING FROM INFECTED OR SUSPECTED PORTS

The following table gives the number of vessels boarded in Blyth by the Officers of the Port Health Authority, on account of them coming directly or indirectly from Foreign Ports, infected or suspected of being infected with Cholera, Plague, Yellow Fever, Smallpox, Typhus Fever, or Relapsing Fever.

1964	From Infected Ports to Blyth		From Suspected Ports to Blyth		TOTAL
	Direct	Indirect	Direct	Indirect	
January ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
February ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
March ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
April ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
May ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
June ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
July ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
August ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
September ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
October ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
November ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
December ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ... ..	—	—	—	—	—

During the Aberdeen typhoid outbreak this year, strict supervision was exercised in regard to the regular vessels trading between Aberdeen and this port. All the ship's stores were checked and no cans of the suspect corned beef were to be found on any vessels.

Some cans of the suspect origin were recovered from one of the ship's suppliers. As far as we were able to ascertain none of this consignment had been supplied to any vessel.













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Wm. Dresser & Sons Ltd.,  
Crown Street, Darlington.